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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Enrique **García González** (El Salvador)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Advancement of women" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee held a general discussion on item 98 jointly with item 99 at its 10th to 15th meetings, from 12 to 15 October, and considered proposals and took action on item 98 at its 19th, 20th, 29th, 34th, 37th, 42nd, 45th and 48th meetings, on 20, 21, 28 October and on 2, 4, 11, 17 and 19 November 2004. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/59/SR.10-15, 19, 20, 29, 34, 37, 42, 45 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/59/185 and Corr.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women (A/59/281);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/59/313);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/59/357);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/59/38).

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/59/135 and Corr.1);

(g) Letter dated 4 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/59/2).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 12 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (see A/C.3/59/SR.10).

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women also made a statement (see A/C.3/59/SR.10).

6. Also at the 10th meeting, the Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the representatives of Senegal, El Salvador, the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela, Côte d'Ivoire and the Gambia took part (see A/C.3/59/SR.10).

7. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement (see A/C.3/59/SR.10).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.24

8. At the 20th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Australia, on behalf of Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.24) entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system".

9. At the 42nd meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Australia orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of operative paragraph 1, the words "and the recommendations described therein" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 2 (b), the words "of suitable women candidates, strengthening of recruitment sources for women, enhancing" were replaced by the words "of suitably qualified women candidates, strengthening of recruitment sources for women, development of recruitment strategies in substantive areas, enhancing";

(c) Operative paragraph 2 (c), which read:

"Recent positive advances in the status of women in the Secretariat";

was replaced by the following text:

"The increase in the proportion of women in professional and higher categories of staff with appointments of one year or more";

(d) A new operative paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 3, reading:

"*Notes with concern* the continuing lack of representation of women at higher levels of decision-making, especially at the Under Secretary-General level";

(e) At the end of operative paragraph 5, the words "and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States" were deleted;

(f) Two new operative paragraphs were inserted after operative paragraph 5, reading:

"*Stresses* the need to address the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States;

"*Reaffirms* the need to continue to develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, in particular from, and in, developing and least developed countries and economies in transition and other Member States that are unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat";

(g) In operative paragraph 7, the words "justice, and anti-harassment policies" were replaced by the words "justice, anti-harassment and sexual harassment policies";

(h) In operative paragraph 11, the words "provide a verbal report" were replaced by the words "provide an oral report".

10. Also at the 42nd meeting, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chile, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United

Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

11. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Bangladesh (see A/C.3/59/SR.42), the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.24, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.25

12. At the 19th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Turkey, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.25) entitled "Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour". Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, France, Georgia, Iceland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia and Turkmenistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At the 29th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.25, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution II).

14. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement; after its adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica and the United States of America (see A/C.3/59/SR.29).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26

15. At the 34th meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of Mexico and also the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.26) entitled "Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women", and orally revised it as follows:

(a) At the end of operative paragraph 2, the words "in particular to address the challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in all regions" were added;

(b) A new operative paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 4, reading:

> "*Also requests* that the Institute, in the formulation of future programmes and projects, take into account the particular challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in the different regions".

16. At the 37th meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.3/59/L.36).

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of the Dominican Republic (see A/C.3/59/SR.37).

18. Also at the 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 128 to 10, with 29 abstentions (see para. 27, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi,[2] Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Fiji, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine.

[2] The representative of Malawi made a statement regarding a technical difficulty with her vote.

19. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Australia (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Sweden, the United States of America and Japan; after the vote, the representative of Portugal made a statement (see A/C.3/59/SR.37).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1

20. At the 45th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1) entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "particular" was inserted before the word "problem";

(b) In the eleventh and twelfth preambular paragraphs, the words "in particular" were replaced by the word "especially";

(c) In operative paragraph 4, the words "the particular problem of" were inserted after the word "encourage" and the word "such" was inserted after the words "in order to eliminate";

(d) In operative paragraph 8, the words "women and children" were replaced by the word "persons" and the words "taking into account" were replaced by the word "recognizing";

(e) In operative paragraph 16, after the words "victims of trafficking", the words "especially women and girls" were deleted and the words "pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls and" were inserted before the words "are applied with full respect";

(f) In operative paragraph 18, the words "in persons" were inserted after the words "victims of trafficking".

21. Also at the 45th meeting, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Namibia, Togo and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

22. At the 48th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of the Philippines further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 4, the words "in women and girls" after the words "such trafficking" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 7, the words "persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in" were inserted between the words "trafficking in" and "women and girls" at the end of the paragraph;

(c) In operative paragraph 8, the words "in particular girls" after the words "trafficking in persons" were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 11, the words "in persons" were inserted after the words "issue of trafficking" and the words "the demand for trafficked women and children, including by sex tourists" were replaced by the words "the demand, including by sex tourists, recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls";

(e) In operative paragraph 17, the words "take steps, including witness protection programmes, to enable women and children, particularly girls, who are victims of trafficking to make complaints" were replaced by the words "take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled to make complaints";

(f) In operative paragraph 22, the words "persons, especially" were inserted between the words "trafficking in" and "women and girls";

(g) In operative paragraph 23, the words "who handle cases of trafficked women and girls" after the words "judicial officers" were deleted and the words "women and girl" were inserted between the words "special needs of" and "victims" at the end of the paragraph;

(h) In operative paragraph 26, the word "particular" was inserted before the words "problem of trafficking".

23. Also at the 48th meeting, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as further orally revised.

24. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 27, draft resolution IV).

25. Before the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and Norway; after it was adopted, the representative of Venezuela made a statement (see A/C.3/59/SR.48).

E. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

26. Also at its 48th meeting, on 19 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions (see para. 28).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

27. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] of achieving overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by 2000 and the further actions and initiatives set out in the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Welcomes*:

(a) The commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization;

(b) The new initiatives and strategies undertaken system-wide and at the Secretariat level to achieve gender balance, including paying special attention to the identification of suitably qualified women candidates, strengthening of recruitment sources for women, development of recruitment strategies in substantive areas, enhancing women's career development, fostering attitudinal changes and introducing family-friendly policies;

(c) The increase in the proportion of women in Professional and higher categories of staff with appointments of one year or more.

3. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution has not been met and that overall progress in achieving this goal remains limited;

4. *Notes with concern* the continuing lack of representation of women at higher levels of decision-making, especially at the Under-Secretary-General level;

5. *Notes with particular concern* that gender balance considerations have yet to be effectively integrated throughout the human resources management policies of the United Nations;

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] A/59/357.

6. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at senior and policy-making levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Stresses* the need to address the continuing lack of representation or underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States;

8. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, in particular from, and in, developing and least developed countries and economies in transition and other Member States that are unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat;

9. *Reaffirms also* its resolution 58/144 of 22 December 2003, and requests increased and sustained efforts towards its full implementation;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that recruitment strategies, promotion and retention policies, career development, justice, anti-harassment and sexual harassment policies, human resources and succession planning, work/family policies, management culture and mechanisms for managerial accountability accelerate the goal of 50/50 gender distribution;

11. *Urges* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system to redouble their efforts to realize significant progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in very near future;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to effectively contribute to, monitor and facilitate the setting and achievement of gender targets in human resource action plans, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

13. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at senior and policy-making levels, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, by identifying and proposing national recruitment sources in cooperation with national women's machineries and professional organization networks and by encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are underrepresented, such as peacekeeping, peacebuilding and other non-traditional areas;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on all levels of the United Nations system.

Draft resolution II
Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of person, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[5] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] as well as the goals and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[8]

Recalling its resolutions 57/179 of 18 December 2002 and 58/147 of 22 December 2003 as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 2004/46 of 20 April 2004,[9]

Recalling also its resolution 58/185 of 22 December 2003, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as well as its resolution 57/190 of 18 December 2002, in which it called for an in-depth study on violence against children,

Bearing in mind that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of crimes committed against women and girls in the name of honour and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Stressing the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as a criminal offence, punishable by law,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[4] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[6] See resolution 48/104.
[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 3* (E/2004/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Stressing also the need to identify and effectively address the root causes of violence against women, in particular crimes committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms,

Aware that inadequate data on violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, hinder informed policy analysis, at both the domestic and the international levels, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

Deeply concerned that women and girls continue to be victims of these crimes, as described in the relevant sections of the reports of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and notes in this regard successive reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,[10]

Emphasizing that such crimes are incompatible with all religious and cultural values,

Emphasizing also that the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour requires greater efforts and commitment on the part of Governments and the international community, inter alia, through international cooperation efforts, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitude are required,

Underlining the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as one of the critical tools to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of violence against women;[11]

(*b*) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the adoption of amendments to relevant national laws relating to such crimes, the effective implementation of such laws and educational, social and other measures, including national information and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of all other forms of violence against women;

(*c*) The efforts, such as projects, undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts;

(*d*) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, grass-roots movements and individuals, in raising awareness of such crimes and their harmful effects;

[10] E/CN.4/2002/83, paras. 21-37.

[11] A/59/281.

2. *Expresses its concern* that women continue to be victims of crimes committed in the name of honour, and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish perpetrators;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To fulfil their obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly;[8]

(*b*) To continue to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, administrative and programmatic measures;

(*c*) To investigate promptly and thoroughly, prosecute effectively and document cases of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour and punish the perpetrators;

(*d*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed and condoned in the name of honour, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to be committed by involving, inter alia, community leaders;

(*e*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness about the responsibility of men to promote gender equality and bring about change in attitudes to eliminate gender stereotypes, including, specifically, their role in preventing crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

(*f*) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

(*g*) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, including the provision of training for those responsible for enforcing the law, such as police personnel and judicial and legal personnel, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to complaints of such crimes in an impartial and effective manner and take necessary measures to ensure the protection of actual and potential victims;

(*h*) To continue to support the work of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing this issue and to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(*i*) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, health-care services, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, psychological health and other relevant areas, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(*j*) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour, inter alia, by creating, strengthening or facilitating institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment;

(*k*) To gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes, including information disaggregated by sex and age, and to make any such information available to the Secretariat for use in the in-depth report on violence against women, in accordance with resolution 58/185, and the in-depth report on violence against children, in accordance with resolution 57/190;

(*l*) To include, where appropriate, in their reports to the human rights treaty bodies information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour;

4. *Invites*:

(*a*) The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, inter alia, through technical assistance and advisory services programmes, to support the efforts of all countries, at their request, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour and at addressing the root causes of such crimes;

(*b*) The relevant human rights treaty bodies, where appropriate, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women its causes and consequences to continue to address this issue;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in his report on the question of violence against women to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.

Draft resolution III
Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on the situation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in particular resolutions 55/219 of 23 December 2000, 56/125 of 19 December 2001, 57/175 of 18 December 2002 and 58/244 of 23 December 2003,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003 on the financial situation of the Institute,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/57 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council decided to amend articles III and IV of the Statute of the Institute,

Welcoming the constitution of the Executive Board of the Institute, in particular the important results of its first session, held on 27 July 2004, and its resumed first session, held on 1 October 2004,

Welcoming also the adoption by the Executive Board of the Institute of the framework of the strategic plan for the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2004-2007,

Bearing in mind the recommendation made by the Executive Board of the Institute at its resumed first session that the report of the Director of the Institute, the proposed operational budget for 2005 and other relevant documents be submitted to the General Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of a number of important strategic initiatives, including the redesign of the web site of the Institute, the strengthening of cooperative arrangements with United Nations entities, the expansion of its research programme, the intensification of its fund-raising campaign, the enhancement of communications with governmental agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector, and the strengthening of the training, capacity-building and outreach activities undertaken by the Institute,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[1]

2. *Welcomes also* the fact that the first phase of the revitalization process has been completed with the preparation of the programme of work, portfolio of projects and related budget of the Institute, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report, and decides that all of its projects should be fully implemented in order to strengthen the Institute, thus enabling it to carry out effectively its mandate, in particular to address the challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in all regions;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the work programme and strategic plan of the Institute will contribute to the review and appraisal of the

[1] A/59/313.

implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and Platform for Action[3] and the outcome document[4] of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

4. *Requests* the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in accordance with its mandate, to actively participate and contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in the context of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

5. *Also requests* that the Institute, in the formulation of future programmes and projects, take into account the particular challenges facing women in developing and least developed countries in the different regions;

6. *Stresses* the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to enable it to carry out its mandate;

7. *Urges* Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, particularly during this critical transitional period;

8. *Decides* to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to ensure that the Institute will be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

Draft resolution IV
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the problem of trafficking in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, including their reaffirmation of the principles set forth in relevant human rights instruments and declarations, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[1] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[3]

Welcoming the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[4] on 29 September 2003 and of its Protocols, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[5] on 25 December 2003 and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air[6] on 28 January 2004,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[7] in particular the resolve expressed by heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration[8] and Platform for Action[9] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[10] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Recognizing the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to provide protection to the victims and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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[1] Resolution 54/263, annex II.
[2] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[3] Resolution 317 (IV), annex.
[4] Resolution 55/25, annex I.
[5] Ibid., annex II.
[6] Ibid., annex III.
[7] See resolution 55/2.
[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[9] Ibid., annex II.
[10] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June-17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their gender as well as their origins,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Recognizing the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Recognizing also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing further that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration should be developed through a child- and gender-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach involving all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

Concerned also at the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for their human rights,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to

[11] A/59/185 and Corr.1.

continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

3. *Also welcomes* the appointment of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

4. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

5. *Also urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a gender and human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

6. *Further urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[4] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[5] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[13] the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[2] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[1] as well as the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111), and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

7. *Encourages* Member States to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements, as well as to undertake initiatives, including regional initiatives,[14] to address the problem of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

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[12] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[13] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[14] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council at its meeting held at Tampere, Finland, on 15 and 16 October 1999 (see Tampere European Council, Presidency Conclusions (SN 200/99). Available on the Internet at www.europa.eu.int), and the activities of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation and sex tourism, and to condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, including intermediaries, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, while also ensuring that the victims of those practices are not penalized for being trafficked, and to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

9. *Invites* Governments to strengthen international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercialized sexual exploitation;

10. *Also invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking;

11. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, including to address the demand side of the problem and to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue, and to emphasize that trafficking is a crime, in order to eliminate the demand, including by sex tourists, recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls;

12. *Urges* concerned Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education and campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

13. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

14. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

15. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to take steps to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, as well as all measures taken against trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect the victims of such trafficking, pay particular attention to

the needs of women and girls and are applied with full respect for the human rights of those victims and are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination and the availability of appropriate legal redress, which may include measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;

17. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled to make complaints to the police or other authorities, as appropriate, and to be available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to protection and social, medical, financial and legal assistance, as appropriate;

18. *Also invites* Governments to consider preventing, within the legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence, bearing in mind that they are victims of exploitation;

19. *Further invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

20. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the rights of trafficked persons and services available to victims of trafficking;

21. *Stresses* the need for systematic data collection and comprehensive studies at both the national and international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen national programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls through increased bilateral, regional and internatio..al cooperation, taking into account innovative approaches and best practices, and invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

23. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations as required, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals for law enforcement and medical personnel and judicial officers, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

24. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and

girls, which should focus on methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from traffickers, to ensure that the training includes human rights and child- and gender-sensitive perspectives, and to encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

25. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[13] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[15] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to compile, as reference and guidance, successful interventions and strategies in addressing the various dimensions of the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, based on reports, research and other materials from within the United Nations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as from outside the United Nations, and to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

[15] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

28. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions.[1]

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/59/38).